



2nd Pictou Bar Lighthouse 2000
Credit: Christine Cardaci



Google Map location of lighthouse
Yellow arrow shows grounding of ship *Cordelia*

Starting in 1809 Nova Scotia forests were harvested to supply local carpenters with wooden beams and lumber to build tall octagonal lighthouses that acted as inexpensive aids to navigations as opposed to the costly stone lighthouses built in the 1700s. One such tall tower was the Pictou Bar Lighthouse built in 1834. Its light could not have been very bright as the ship *Cordelia* ran aground after its captain mistook a candle in a farmhouse window for the Pictou Bar light and took a wrong turn onto a sandbar. The risk of using wood as building material is fire and in 1903 the Pictou Bar Lighthouse burned down. An almost identical tower was built to replace it that same year but it too was threatened by a lantern fire in 1931 that lightkeeper William Macfarlane put out. However he was badly burned requiring a lengthy hospitalization. Fire must have been the ultimate fate of this lighthouse as on a quiet evening in July 2004 the second Pictou Bar Lighthouse burned down and was replaced by a modern aid to navigation.



1st Pictou Bar Lighthouse 1901
Credit: Library and Archives Canada



Pictou Bar Lighthouse burning July 5 2004
Credit: Pictou Historical Photograph Society